

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 493

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJECT: MILITARY UTILITY AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER
DATE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 012376

1. WE CONSIDER THAT OUR MASTER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT (MDEA) OF *1962 WITH THE NETHERLANDS AND THE DOZENS OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS PURSUED THEREUNDER ARE VALUABLE IN HELPING TO CEMENT CLOSE US-DUTCH MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WHICH IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO MAINTAIN, AND WE KNOW OF NO MDEA ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE HAD OTHER THAN POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. OUR MAAG, WHICH DEVOTES BULK OF ITS TIME AND ENERGY TO IMPORTANT MILITARY SALES ACTIVITIES AND TO LIAISON WITH SENIOR DUTCH MILITARY OFFICERS, HANDLES MDEA MATTERS WITHOUT DEGRADATION OF ITS OTHER EFFORTS. MAAG STAFFING IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO THE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITIES OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. WE CAN RECALL NO INSTANCES IN RECENT YEARS WHEN PROBLEMS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING MDEA MATTERS HAVE ARISEN WHICH REQUIRED THE ATTENTION OF THE CHIEF OF MISSION,
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WHO RELIES ON CHIEF MAAG TO OVERSEE MDEA ACTIVITIES.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE DATA PROVIDED UNDER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES USED IN THE PRODUCTION OF MATERIEL.

5. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, WE KNOW OF NO CASES WHERE MDEA ACTIVITIES HAVE CAUSED FRICTION IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE DUTCH. THERE IS A FLOW OF DATA IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, SUBJECT TO SECURITY CLASSIFICATION CONSTRAINTS, WITH THE US AS WELL AS THE DUTCH BENEFITING FROM THE EXCHANGE.

6. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE OUR DATA EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS WITH DUTCH MILITARY CONTRIBUTE TO SPIRIT OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY WHICH IS STRIVING TO MAINTAIN AT TIME WHEN DUTCH LEFT-WING ELEMENTS ARE CHALLENGING NEED AND DESIRABILITY OF WESTERN DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS.
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